



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

March 22, 2012

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Each day, the brave men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) answer more than 1,000 emergency calls for assistance. Quick, safe and effective emergency response is one of the most important services provided by the Department. With life and death on the line, Angelenos must be confident that when they call, the LAFD will be there.

In the last few weeks, the LAFD has endeavored to provide accurate information about its response times, but unfortunately this has raised more questions than answers. Instead of the needed clarity, there has been confusion.

The current situation is untenable, and we must take immediate steps to rectify it. We need an emergency response system that is reliable and accountable. We need monitoring procedures to ensure that all response time data are accurate, and transparent. It is paramount that the Department maintains the public trust.

To this end, I have taken the following steps:

1. ENSURE RELIABILITY OF LAFD STATISTICS

To establish confidence in the accuracy of the LAFD's statistical data, I have directed Chief Cummings to appoint Jeff Godown to be the Interim Director of Statistical Analysis and Review at the LAFD. As the former Officer in Charge of the LAPD's COMPSTAT Bureau, Godown is a nationally recognized expert in data management and performance measures. He will analyze and verify all of the LAFD's statistical data, including response times. He will provide a report on his initial findings to the Fire Commission, City Council, Chief Cummings and my office within 30 days. Thereafter he will provide periodic updates on his progress.

2. EVALUATE RESPONSE TIME DATA

To address the inconsistencies in past LAFD response time data, I have asked City Controller Wendy Greuel to conduct a thorough review of response time statistics and report her findings.



3. ENHANCE OVERSIGHT

I have nominated for your consideration Alan Skobin to the Fire Commission. As a member of the Police Commission for nine years, Skobin has played a leading role in ensuring robust civilian oversight of the LAPD. This experience will be helpful in enhancing the Commission's oversight of the LAFD.

4. ENHANCE RELIABILITY OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE

To ensure that the LAFD has the most advanced and reliable technological tools at its disposal, I have directed Eileen Decker, Deputy Mayor of Homeland Security and Public Safety, to immediately begin the procurement of the Fire Alert System. MICLA Funding for this system has already been secured. Deputy Mayor Decker will also identify the top technological needs of the department, including critical software upgrades, key radio communications infrastructure, and replacement of the Computer Aided Dispatch system.

5. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE RESOURCES

To further improve response times in areas of the city that need it most, I recommend that the City Council grant Chief Cummings' request for six additional ambulances, to be funded through a transfer from the City's Reserve Fund. These added vehicles will be instrumental in ensuring the continued reliability of the Department's emergency response system.

Working together, I am confident that we can take the necessary steps to reform the LAFD's emergency response system and to ensure its long-term effectiveness and dependability.

Very truly yours,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

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cc: Chief Brian Cummings, LAFD
The Honorable Wendy Greuel, Controller
Miguel Santana, CAO
Gerry Miller, CLA



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2012**

**Contact: Vicki Curry
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**MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA AND CHIEF CUMMINGS TO APPOINT JEFF
GODOWN INTERIM DIRECTOR OF STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND REVIEW
AT THE LAFD**

Appointment included in letter sent to City Council regarding recent LAFD issues

LOS ANGELES – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today sent the attached letter to the Los Angeles City Council. Included in the letter is the appointment of Jeff Godown as Interim Director of Statistical Analysis and Review at the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Godown was previously Interim Chief of the San Francisco Police Department and formerly Officer in Charge of the LAPD's COMPSTAT Bureau. He is a nationally recognized expert in data management and performance measures and will create a statistical data analysis system for the LAFD.

“Due to the economic downturn and budget tightening throughout all police and fire departments, it is important that a process be implemented that allows for a more strategic look at all of the relevant data produced,” said Godown. “This process will allow for a more detailed and thoughtful approach to running a large department such as the LAFD. By using this data to deploy resources and examine response times and other components of the Department, the LAFD will be able to move toward a process that is more transparent to the needs of the community in which it serves.”

COMPSTAT, short for "computer statistics" or "comparison statistics," is a multifaceted system for managing police operations. It correlates data from daily crime reports and generates maps of criminal hot spots which helps commanders decide how to best use their limited resources. Godown implemented

COMPSTAT at the LAPD in 2002 and the SFPD in 2009. The LAPD has successfully used the system to re-deploy resources in high crime areas, and has systematically reduced the City's crime rate.

"I have worked with Jeff Godown for more than 20 years," said LAPD Chief Charlie Beck. "He is very sharp, a tireless worker, and nobody knows the COMPSTAT process better. He would be a tremendous asset for any public safety organization."

"Jeff Godown is the right man at the right time," said former Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton. "One of the foremost COMPSTAT experts and advocates in America, he is imminently qualified to work with the Los Angeles Fire Department as it implements this award-winning management resource distribution and accountability system."

In the letter, Villaraigosa also addresses other issues of concern that have been raised in recent weeks.

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